**Fire in oil depot at Jaipur**

561. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to fire in oil depot at Jaipur, there has been smoke all around Jaipur;

(b) what are the guidelines for having oil depots;

(c) whether these depots can be installed in the populated areas; and

(d) if so, the reasons and responsibility for causing health hazards to human lives in the populated areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) It has been reported that black smoke was seen emitting from the site of the incident due to burning of petroleum products.

(b) to (d) The setting up of oil depots depends on the supply- demand situation of the area to be served and the location is determined by factors like various mandatory clearances from Central/ State and local authorities. Generally, the depots are set up in scarcely populated areas. However, it is observed that the density of population increases after the depot is commissioned.

**Strengthening regulatory framework for the petroleum sector**

562. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent spate of disputes in the petroleum sector, Government is contemplating a revamp and strengthening of the independent regulatory framework for the petroleum sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Parking of surplus funds of ONGC with banks**

563. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has protested the Finance Ministry direction of parking surplus funds with only with the Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;